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FUTURE BRIGHTENS FOR THREE JOB CORPSMEN

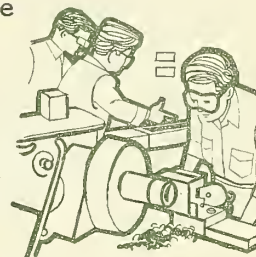
Gilbert Daugherty of Jeffersonville, Indiana, finished the 10th grade, but didn't learn to read.

David Williams dropped out of a Macon, Georgia, high school in his sophomore year, three years behind his classmates in reading ability.

Louis Laboy went as far as the ninth grade in New York City, New York, then quit.

But now their future looks brighter. They have each undergone Job Corps training at Blackwell conservation camp, Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin.

After six months of training, Mr. Daugherty, 18, had learned to operate a tractor and power tools. He had been introduced to welding and mechanics, and was reading at the fifth grade level.



Mr. Williams, 21, after four months of training, had learned about cement work and landscaping. He dreams of eventually going to college.

Mr. Laboy, 18, after two and a half months of training, had done some cement construction work. He wanted to go on to advanced training at an urban Job Corps center.

In Washington, D.C., officials of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and Department of Agriculture were drafting an agreement on Job Corps recruitment, with quotas of rural youths by states.

Under the agreement, if approved, State Technical Action Panels (TAP's) will ask county TAP's to identify eligible youths and refer them to screening agencies. Chairmen's instructions are being prepared and should be sent out in the near future.

REA BORROWERS STIMULATE NEW JOBS

Electric and telephone systems financed by the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) helped create 31,000 jobs through business expansions in fiscal 1966.

This brought to 182,000 the number of jobs created with REA borrowers' help since the Rural Areas Development program started in 1961.

The employment opportunities stem from commercial, industrial, and community facilities projects undertaken with the help of the REA-financed systems.

Such systems have helped to raise the standard of living for millions of people, to increase farm efficiency and income and to create a market of more than \$1 billion a year for industry products.



A good example of how REA-borrowers can stimulate jobs can be found in Mankato, Kansas. With the help of REA Rural Areas Development staff officials, a group of local businessmen, whose members included officials of Jewell-Mitchell Cooperative Electric Company, generated construction of a beef processing plant which was expected to open up about 75 jobs for local people.

Community, State and Federal financing helped bring about the Mankato Packing Company, which is expected to start operating in the spring of this year.

The plant also is expected to serve as a market for cattle raisers within a 150-mile radius of Mankato, involving about 85 Kansas and Nebraska counties.

With REA-RAD staff help, capital for the building and equipment came from the Small Business Administration, the REA-financed electric co-op, Kansas Development Credit Corporation, and the packing company. The land was donated by the Mankato Commercial Development Association, a corporation formed by the local leaders so they could be eligible for Federal loans.

FIELD DAY HELPS GET MESSAGE ACROSS

Field Day was the first time many East Cambridge, Massachusetts, residents understood the poverty program.

It was a fun day for 3,000 persons, eating hot dogs, drinking soda, watching athletic contests, winning prizes, and dancing.

Although Cambridge is a city, Field Day showed a way rural leaders could get a message across. The gathering gave the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee a chance to explain to the people its programs and goals. They set up displays, handed out information, and had workers available to answer questions.

A group of East Cambridge volunteers, with committee help, planned the Field day. Merchants donated food and prizes. Entertainment was provided without charge.

BRIDGE, ROAD TO PAVE WAY TO MORE SHORELINE

A half-million-dollar bridge project and State highway linking U. S. Highway 280 with the Lake Martin area in Alabama will open up more shoreline for development.

The bridge project, southeast of Alexander City, is to be completed this year. It will save vacationers about six miles and reroute traffic to avoid a business area.



The Tallapoosa County Rural Resource Development Committee, Alexander City Chamber of Commerce, and Tallapoosa County Commissioners Court urged county and State officials to undertake the project. They have been assisted by Rural Resource Development specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service at Auburn University.

Similar projects under way in Alabama will provide access to State parks, historical sites, and other points of interest.

TEAMWORK PUTS PROBLEMS "DOWN THE DRAIN"

Residents of two communities in Berkeley County, South Carolina, can look forward to better crops, improved homes, septic tanks, and better roads.

People in Cross and Russellville had such severe drainage problems they couldn't install septic tanks, and the land was too wet for good crop yields.

Then they took their problem to the Technical Action Panel. Each panel member helped solve the drainage problem. Extension Service helped the communities organize; Soil Conservation Service provided planning and engineering aid; Farmers Home Administration made a loan; and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service cost-shared in the project.

Before, because of the drainage problem, the people couldn't borrow money to fix their homes. Now they can. Production of soybeans has gone from little or no yield to 25-30 bushels per acre, compared with the State average of about 20 bushels.

TOURISM SPARKS OZARK ECONOMY

The rugged Ozarks terrain, once the area's biggest economic handicap, has turned out to be a major asset.

The Ozark and Ouachita Mountains, along with numerous man-made lakes originally developed for flood control, are top attractions for tourists, whose dollars have rekindled a spark missing since the Ozark timber industry passed its peak early this century.

Studies by the Economic Research Service in the three-state area show:

--In 31 counties in the Missouri Ozarks, recreation and tourism accounted for almost \$70 million and 5,300 employees in 1959. Nine out of 10 trade or service firms reported part or all of their business came from tourism.

--In Arkansas, travelers spent about \$259 million in 1964. Businesses serving travelers accounted for nearly one-third of the State's 1960 retail and service employment.

--In Oklahoma, out-of-state motorists spent about \$141 million in 1959, and about 31,000 persons had jobs supported in part by this money.

NEW LAW TO HELP RURAL FAMILIES OBTAIN HOUSING



The new Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act makes it possible for more rural families to qualify for housing assistance from the Farmers Home Administration.

Changes include:

--More housing credit was made available by removing the \$300 million annual ceiling on USDA's Farmers Home Administration insured loans.

--Loans can be made for newly-built homes. Before, individuals had to plan, contract for and build a house, or buy a previously-occupied dwelling.

--Low-income families can obtain housing credit with a qualified cosigner. Previously, only persons 62 or older qualified.

--Financial assistance can be given to build rental housing for families of all age groups. Previously, this housing was only for people 62 or older.

--Limit of loans to make minor repairs to homes and farm service buildings to remove health and safety hazards has been raised from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

--Refinancing of debts is authorized under certain conditions when it is necessary to help a family retain ownership of its home.

FOOD HANDLERS TAKE COURSE

Food handlers in four southern Illinois counties, spurred by growing tourist trade, have gone back to school to improve their service.

The course was devised by local organizations and development groups, working with Cooperative Extension Service and Southern Illinois University, to expand tourism by improving food service.

The course was completed by 437 persons, more than 80 percent of the food handlers in Pope, Johnson, Harding and Nassac Counties.

FHA LOANS TO NEGROES INCREASE IN 16 SOUTHERN STATES

More than 104,000 rural Negroes in 16 southern states benefited from Farmers Home Administration loans in fiscal 1966.

The 20,800 loans, totaling \$50,874,000, represented a 30 percent increase over 1965 and 146 percent increase over 1960.

The money was used to buy, develop and operate family farms, offset disasters, build homes, and develop trades and services to increase incomes.

RURAL POVERTY COMMISSION TO HOLD HEARINGS

The President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty will hold regional hearings in Memphis, Tennessee, February 2-3 for the South and Midwest, and in Washington, D.C., February 15-17 for the East and Northeast.

Governor Edward T. Breathitt of Kentucky, chairman, said the hearings, which opened January 26-27 in Tucson, Arizona, are to "hear from the people who feel they have not had adequate opportunities in life." He said, "We want advice about future policy and action," as well as information about public programs which have worked and those which have not.



The recently formed commission was directed by President Johnson to make a comprehensive study of rural life.

TOWN GETS NEEDED WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION

When fire struck a lumber mill at Dillwyn, Virginia, it took about half the water in the town's 150,000 gallon water tank to put out the blaze. And there wasn't enough pressure left to supply water to some outlying residents until the volume built up.

The Craddock-Terry Shoe Company of Lynchburg was considering a branch factory at Dillwyn, but it would require operating water and 75,000 gallons of water in reserve. So the plant was out of the question at that time.

An engineering firm determined the town needed a new 300,000 gallon ground storage tank, four water movement and pressure regulating pumps, pipe for attaching the new addition to the existing system, and pipe to the factory.

The town acquired a loan and grant of \$28,500 each from the Farmers Home Administration.

As a result of the community's action and the financial help, the water system addition has been installed and the factory is in operation.

NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS OKAYED

Two new Regional Economic Development Commissions will serve areas designated by the Secretary of Commerce as "economic development regions."

One commission will serve the Four Corners Economic Development Region, which involves 92 counties in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. The other will serve the Coastal Plains Economic Development Region, involving 159 counties in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

States set up the commissions and the President appoints a Federal cochairman, whose appointment must be approved by the Senate, to work with each commission.

DUMPS NEED NOT BE EYE-SORES, POLLUTION SOURCES

Sixty towns in Maine's St. John-Aroostook Resource Conservation and Development Project are moving their dumps to better soils and beautifying them.

First, the towns plan to use land and water science in relocating old dumps and selecting sites for new ones.

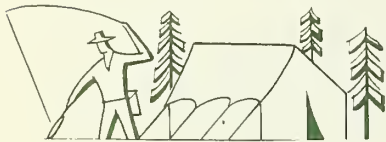
Porous soils release pollutants from waste, affecting streams, lakes and groundwater. So the towns are looking for soils which filter out most of the pollutants and respond to conservation treatment.

Once the proper soils are found, local sponsors plan to dig trenches along contour levels. As each trench is filled with waste, it will be covered by soil from the next contour level and planted with trees, shrubs or grass. This will result in a terraced effect with screening and beautification instead of an ugly surface dump.

PROFITS FROM RECREATION AREA INCREASE

Walter L. Pace switched from truck farming to recreation, while continuing to operate his orchards.

After the second summer of operation, Mr. Pace saw his net profit from the Bulls-eye Recreation Area on his farm near Saluda, North Carolina, rise from \$1,300 in 1965 to nearly \$2,500 in 1966.



Mr. Pace received planning assistance from the county staff of the Soil Conservation Service, as well as development ideas from Forest Service recreation technicians.

He and the USDA agencies planned a fishing, swimming, camping and picnic area. SCS planned 10-acre and two-acre lakes which were built, landscaped and surrounded by 50 campsites, several cabins, a picnic area, pavilion, bathhouse and utility buildings.

Farmers Home Administration approved a \$45,000 loan and ASCS granted \$5,900 for cropland diversion and improvement. Extension Service helped with educational phases of the operation.

FORESTS YIELD ANOTHER RECORD

The National Forests yielded 12.1 billion board feet of timber in fiscal 1966, a fourth consecutive record harvest.

Forest industries paid \$195.6 million for the cut timber, and 4,294 miles of roads were built to log the timber.

The wood for three out of every 10 boards and one out of every two pieces of plywood produced in American mills was grown on National Forest land.



In terms of wages and investments created, economists figure that the timber generated close to \$5 billion in business activity through harvesting, transporting, processing, and selling.

BETTER NUTRITION, FOOD SERVICE TAUGHT

Missouri Extension home economists are teaching better nutrition and food service, using Government-donated food.

More than 96,000 families in 30 counties receive donated food each month.

In most of these counties, home economists are supplying information for the food's use. Some hold classes; others hand out or mail printed material, use educational displays or radio broadcasts.

EDA OFFERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration says it has funds available for good technical assistance projects, but only for good ones--ones which will create a maximum number of jobs in a minimum amount of time.



Applications, available from EDA field coordinators, will be evaluated according to such factors as the number of jobs saved or created; income saved or created; how long it would take to complete the project; the expectation of positive findings from a feasibility study; the expectation of successful follow-up at the local level; how long it would take to create jobs and increase income through a project.

COUNTY MAKES DRAMATIC PROGRESS

Warren County, Tennessee, has made dramatic progress since the Farmers Home Administration made its first water system loan in the area in 1964.

During the past two years, the county has seen the following:

- Construction of four new industrial plants.
- 260 new homes, and 390 homes remodeled.
- New community buildings valued at more than \$500,000.
- 130 miles of rural water lines, financed by FHA.
- Doubling of property values.
- Golf courses and recreation areas, financed by FHA.

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INCOME INCREASES IN RURAL RENEWAL COUNTY

Personal income in Little River County, Arkansas--one of the original five counties designated in 1963 by Secretary Freeman to receive rural renewal funds--has increased more over a five-year period than in any other county in the State.

From 1960 to 1965, personal income in Little River County increased from \$1,131 to \$1,945 per person, or 72 percent. Total income went up 104 percent. Financial and technical assistance under the rural renewal program was considered a major factor contributing to the increase.